

To: R2 EPA Region 2 (EPA Staff)[R2_EPA_Region_2_EPA_Staff@epa.gov]
From: Shore, Berry
Sent: Thur 7/7/2016 12:16:40 PM
Subject: POFA/POFS - Hoosick Falls Clips

Assembly to hold two water quality hearings in September

by Scott Waldman

07/06/16 06:08 PM EDT

Politico

ALBANY — After facing months of intensifying pressure, the state Assembly announced late Wednesday that it will hold two water quality hearings in September.

The announcement comes after a growing number of top Democrats, as well as some Republicans, have called for legislative hearings because of the water pollution crisis in the upstate communities of Hoosick Falls and Petersburg. It also comes five months after the Assembly announced water quality hearings in February. Those hearings were never scheduled.

"Recent reports of water contamination in municipalities across the state have highlighted the need for a thorough review of measures to ensure clean and healthy water in our communities," Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie said in a statement. "Ensuring a safe water supply for our children and families is a top priority for us."

Wednesday's announcement, which did not give specific dates for the hearings, also did not mention Hoosick Falls, where thousands of people drank tainted water for more than a year before they were warned not to. February's announcement explicitly mentioned the village in the same sentence as Flint, Michigan, where government malfeasance allowed thousands of people to drink water with high levels of lead.

For months, lawmakers have said hearings were not necessary and that they were focused on looking forward, not back. In recent weeks, however, top Democrats, including U.S. Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand have called for hearings, as have GOP Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin and Republican U.S. Rep. Chris Gibson, who is also exploring federal hearings.

The Assembly hearings will be held by environmental conservation chairman Steve Englebright and health committee chairman Richard Gottfried. They will take testimony during two public hearings — one in Albany and one in Suffolk County. The Assembly will “review the causes and response to the known contamination as well as measures to prevent future occurrences,” Wednesday's announcement stated.

"Ensuring the safety of drinking water in this state is paramount," Gottfried said in a statement. "We're going to examine the issue of water contamination and assess our current laws and public policies on these matters, and how they're working, to protect public access to safe, clean water."

State Assembly to Hold Water Quality Hearings in September

By Tanja Rekhi

Updated Thursday, July 7, 2016 at 12:07 AM EDT

Time Warner Cable News – Capital Region

Here's how every morning starts for Loreen Hackett: tweet after tweet. She calls out senators, Assembly members and Governor Andrew Cuomo ever since she learned the man-made chemical perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, was found in her village's drinking water.

"I've had people from the capital block us," Hackett said. "I go to tweet them and it won't go. How sad is that?"

Loreen started a social media campaign, showcasing how much of the potentially cancer-causing element was found in residents' blood.

"This is my grandson Cory, and we like to call him the face of the campaign," Hackett said. "He's six and his number is 142, and that's his sister Alyssa, my granddaughter. She's four and her number is 117. ... Mind you, the average person in the U.S. has 2."

The life-long Hoosick Falls resident was just hoping her call for public hearings on the contamination would be answered. Wednesday, it finally was, the state assembly agreeing to host public hearings in September.

"This is huge. This is huge. This is what we've been banging for," Hackett said. "It's what we've been hammering on Twitter for. Everyone in this town has been working so hard to be heard."

This, after assembly speaker Carl Heastie said a few months ago they were not necessary at this point, despite countless calls from Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin.

"As outraged as I am, I represent that community, but I don't live there," McLaughlin said. "So for the folks that live there, they have to live with that fear every day. So I'm going to work to get them answers, because they deserve nothing less than that."

They're answers Loreen will continue to ask for, too.

"I am going to keep yelling," she said. "This has just gotten past the point of ridiculous. Until I'm sitting in a room and getting answers, I'm going to continue."

State Assembly to hold hearings on drinking water contamination

By MARY ESCH, Associated Press

The Post Star (Glens Falls)

ALBANY — The state Assembly will hold hearings in the fall on water quality issues, including an examination of the Cuomo administration's response to toxic chemical contamination of drinking water in the village of Hoosick Falls, officials announced Wednesday.

“Recent reports of water contamination in municipalities across the state have highlighted the need for a thorough review of measures to ensure clean and healthy water in our communities,” Democratic Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie said in a news release.

Heastie spokesman Michael Whyland confirmed that the hearings would examine the state’s actions in Hoosick Falls as well as “anything related to water quality.”

“This is huge — it’s about time,” said Loreen Hackett, a Hoosick Falls resident who has been waging a social media campaign calling for hearings into why it took the state Department of Health 18 months to warn residents their drinking water was contaminated with PFOA, a toxic chemical long used in the manufacture of Teflon and similar materials.

“Who knew what, when?” Hackett said. “There needs to be some sort of accountability so people in other communities don’t go through what we have.”

Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin, R-Troy, commented about the Assembly’s decision to conduct the public hearings in a news release.

“The people of Hoosick Falls and Petersburg should be proud of their efforts and pressure they applied to make these hearings become a reality. This is the first but very crucial step to find out who knew what, and when.”

Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo has said it’s up to the Legislature whether to hold hearings on the Hoosick Falls contamination response.

“We’re going to examine the issue of water contamination and assess our current laws and public policies on these matters, and how they’re working, to protect public access to safe, clean water,” Democratic Assembly Health Committee Chair Richard Gottfried said.

The Rensselaer County villages of Hoosick Falls and nearby Petersburg are in the midst of cleanup work for contamination with PFOA, perfluorooctanoic acid.

The Assembly hearings, to be held in Albany and Suffolk County in September, were announced the same day jurors in an Ohio federal court said PFOA used by DuPont Co. at its West Virginia plant caused a man to get testicular cancer and awarded him \$5.1 million in damages.

DuPont Hit With \$5.1M Verdict In 2nd Cancer Bellwether Trial

By Cara Salvatore

Law360

New York (July 6, 2016, 3:35 PM ET) -- An Ohio federal jury on Wednesday awarded \$5.1 million to a man who says DuPont's chemical dumping caused his cancer and found DuPont liable for actual malice, triggering a punitive damages phase in the second bellwether trial.

The Ohio federal jury delivered its verdict on Wednesday afternoon, less than a day after hearing closing arguments in the month-long trial.

The cancer survivor, David Freeman, contends that E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co.'s 20th-century dominance in products like Teflon, Stainmaster carpet, and Gore-Tex fabric was accompanied by the continuous.

Hoosick Falls residents told to limit water use after construction issue

Staff reports

Posted: 07/06/2016 03:12:10 PM EDT

Bennington Baner

HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. — Residents are still being asked to limit their water use a day after a construction issue left the water treatment plant without power.

Village officials have asked water users to refrain from "non-critical" use of municipal water, such as watering lawns and filling pools. Electricians are working to fix the issue; notice will be provided when the issue is fixed. Updates will be posted on the village website: www.villageofhoosickfalls.com.

The issue stems from an incident at the plant on Tuesday, according to Mayor David Borge.

"Contractors at the municipal water treatment plant unintentionally cut the electrical supply to parts of the facility, disabling the plant's ability to draw water from the municipal supply wells," Borge said in a statement Tuesday.

He said water will keep flowing to residents' pipes and faucets. On-site storage tanks hold water that has already been treated by a filtration system to remove the chemical PFOA.

"However, due to limited supply, officials ask that residents limit non-essential use of the municipal water, such as watering lawns and filling pools," Borge said in the statement.

The plant on Waterworks Road draws groundwater from three wells. A granulated activated carbon (GAC) filtration system was installed at the plant this spring to remove PFOA, or perfluorooctanoic acid, from the groundwater. Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics agreed to pay the \$219,563 to rent and install the filter, as well as pay for any long-term maintenance. The state says Saint-Gobain along with Honeywell International are responsible for PFOA contamination in the village.

Saint-Gobain also agreed to install and maintain a larger, "permanent" filtration system. Construction is underway and slated to be completed this fall.

Hoosick Falls urges residents to limit water use

Staff report

Updated 7:22 pm, Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Time Union

HOOSICK FALLS — The village, which is dealing with water contamination, now has a problem at the water treatment plant, and residents have been asked to limit water use.

Contractors broke wires in part of the plant, causing an electrical short, Mayor David Borge said Wednesday.

Though the village has installed a temporary fix, he said, officials have asked residents to limit non-critical city water use until the problem is permanently solved. Borge estimated that would come on Friday.

The notice urges residents to limit outdoor water use, including watering lawns and gardens, filling pools and washing cars. For updates, go to <http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/>

Perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, has been detected in the municipal water system as well as private wells in and around Hoosick Falls.

Hoosick Falls residents asked to limit water use

Updated: Jul 07, 2016 7:56 AM EDT

Channel 6 WLNE-TV

HOOSICK FALLS, N.Y. (AP) - An upstate New York village dealing with water contamination now has a problem at its water treatment plant, and residents have been asked to limit water use.

Hoosick Falls Mayor David Borge says contractors broke wires in part of the plant, and that caused an electrical short.

The village has installed a temporary fix, but residents have been asked to limit non-critical city water use until the problem is permanently solved.

The problem is expected to be fixed by Friday, when U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand will take part in a roundtable discussion of the ongoing water contamination crisis with area residents.

Perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, has been detected in the municipal water system and in private wells in and around Hoosick Falls.

Copyright 2016 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.
